GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
SETTING UP OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR COAL MINES
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;ZORA SINGH MANN

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory authority for coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) the details of powers to be vested in the proposed authority;

(d) whether the coal sector has been adversely affected due to resource crunch;

(e) if so, the details of foreign investment likely to be attracted by the sector;

(f) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of coal in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the gap?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (h) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (h) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question 189 for 3.12.2001.

(a) to (c) :In the context of Government's decision to open up the coal mining sector to private sector investment, it was decided in 1997 that an independent body may be set up to perform the functions of monitoring and processing proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian companies. The decisions will have to be reconsidered by the present Government.

(d) : Yes, Sir.

(e) :We do not have any estimates of the likely foreign investment in the coal sector .

(f) & (g) :The gap between demand and supply has been assessed at 30.06 million tonnes at the end of 2000-01, at 53.56 million tonnes at the end of 2006-07 and at 260.30 million tonnes at the end of 2011-12.

(h): The Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Parliament to allow Indian companies to mine coal and lignite in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining, and to engage in exploration of coal and lignite.